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Financing of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti, the United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti and the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti

Financing of the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance report of the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti (MIPONUH) for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 (A/54/757). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

2. By its resolutions 52/246 of 26 June 1998 and 53/222 A of 7 April 1999, the General Assembly appropriated a total amount of $29,968,700 gross ($28,536,700 net) for the maintenance of MIPONUH for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999, inclusive of $894,085 for the support account for peacekeeping operations.

3. Expenditures for the same period amounted to $26,261,000 gross ($25,101,100 net), inclusive of $5,854,000 in unliquidated obligations. The resulting unencumbered balance of $3,707,700 gross ($3,435,600 net), representing approximately 12 per cent of the amount appropriated, was owing to savings under civilian personnel, operational requirements, other programmes and staff assessment, offset partially by overrun under military personnel. Details on financial performance and supplementary information are presented in annexes I and II to the report of the Secretary-General (A/54/757).

4. The Committee notes from paragraph 1 of annex II to the report of the Secretary-General that the additional requirement of $180,000 under military personnel for death and disability related to a helicopter accident in March 1999. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that there are guidelines to be followed in the event of accidents. The Committee was also informed that a review is being carried out by the International Civil Aviation Organization on air operations in peacekeeping operations. The terms of reference of the review include the mandate of the Transport Services of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, as it relates to the provision of aviation support, all applicable directives associated with air movements, the processes used to convey policy to all relevant staff, responsibilities for the procurement, management and operation of aviation resources and responsibilities for the safety of air operations.

5. The Committee was informed that the amount of $509,900 was unutilized on local staff salaries mainly because, by error, local staff salaries were budgeted at gross amounts instead of net amounts.

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6. With regard to spare parts, repairs and maintenance of vehicles, the Committee was informed that an overrun of $64,800 had been incurred under this item owing to higher costs of repairing an old fleet of vehicles that were seven to eight years old. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that instead of being automatically replaced, vehicles five years old or with 120,000 miles had been retained because of uncertainty regarding the mandate of the Mission.

7. The Advisory Committee was informed that an amount of $19,200 was unutilized under commercial communication, owing to the closure of three civilian police stations. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the three stations had been closed in the context of the scaling down of operations following the expiration of the mandates of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti and the United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti.

8. The Committee was also informed that an amount of $16,900 under public information programmes, resulted primarily from the scaling down of activities owing to a shortage of personnel in the public information unit.

9. As regards reimbursement for the formed unit, the Committee was informed that, as at 31 December 1999, the amount was $2,565,671 for the period from inception up to 30 April 1999, and that the amount owed for the period from 1 May to 31 December 1999 was $1,235,911.

10. With regard to reimbursement for contingent-owned equipment, the Committee was informed that the amount was $417,346, the estimated amount owed was $646,896 and unliquidated obligations for contingent-owned equipment amounted to $681,477. In case of death and disability, six claims paid amounted to $300,000 and unliquidated claims amounted to $26,700.

11. The Committee was informed that, at 31 December 1999, the cash position amounted to $12.3 million. Assessments amounted to $151.6 million, payments received totalled $127.7 million and amounts outstanding were $23.9 million. Total unliquidated obligations for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 were $2,626,182, as at 31 December 1999.

12. The action to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of MIPONUH is to decide on the treatment of the unencumbered balance of $3,707,700 gross ($3,435,600 net), for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999. **The General Assembly may wish to consider crediting the unencumbered balance to Member States or to the trust fund of the International Civilian Support Mission in Haiti (MICAH).**